

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

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DEPT PASS TO DHEW/PHS/OIH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, IN
SUBJECT: GENETIC CONTROL OF MOSQUITOES

1. DR. C. GOPALAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL ICMR, ANNOUNCED FRIDAY OF LAST WEEK THAT THE GENETIC CONTROL OF MOSQUITOES UNIT WAS TERMINATED ON JUNE 30, FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE WHO. HOWEVER, THE PROJECT WOULD BE CONTINUED UNDER A NEW NAME, "THE VECTOR CONTROL RESEARCH CENTER."

2. IN THE MEANTIME, PENDING A DECISION BY THE GOI RELATING TO FUNDS AND ORGANIZATION, THE PROJECT WILL FUNCTION TEMPORARILY IN TWO SECTIONS. THE LABORATORY SECTOR WILL BE HOUSED AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMMUCABLE DISEASES IN DELHI AND THE FIELD STATION WILL BE LOCATED AT THE POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTER IN PONDICHERRY. THE BUILDINGS PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY THE WHO UNIT WERE BEING RETURNED TO THE OWNERS.

3. EVEN THOUGH THE GOI HAS NOT YET MADE A FINAL DECISION ON THE PROJECT THE STAFF OF THE UNIT HAS RECEIVED ORDERS TRANSFERRING THEM TO ONE OF THE TWO DIVISIONS.

4. COMMENT: GOPALAN TOLD EMBASSY SCIENCE ATTACHE LAST WEEK THAT THE MINISTER OF HEALTH HAS REQUESTED RS. 1.5 MILLION FOR

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THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION FOR THE NEW VECTOR CONTROL RESEARCH

CENTER. THIS, OF COURSE, IS ONLY ABOUT 1/5 OF THE YEARLY EXPENSES OF THE WHO MOSQUITO GENETIC PROJECT, BUT THE PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO OPERATE WITHIN THESE FINANCIAL PARAMETERS.

5. GOPALAN FEELS THE MAIN PROBLEM WILL BE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACILITIES IN PONDICHERRY. THERE HAS BEEN NO PROVISION FOR CONSTRUCTION MONEY NOR WILL THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MOF) SANCTION ANY THIS YEAR. AT PRESENT, THEY WILL USE VERY TEMPORARY QUARTERS LOANED BY THE POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTER (PMC) IN PONDICHERRY. ALSO THE NICD LABORATORY IN DELHI IS ONLY TEMPORARY UNTIL THE UNIT CAN BE COMBINED IN PONDICHERRY. THE WAY PRIORITIES ARE IN INDIAN TODAY, THIS COULD BE SOME TIME, IF EVER.

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